



NEW VERSIONS OF CLAIMS WITH INCORPORATED AMENDMENTS

1. A method for multicasting a retrieval request message to more than one of a plurality of agents, comprising the steps of:  
receiving a packet comprising a retrieval request message and preferential destination information designated by a user;  
determining to which of said plurality of agents said message is to be sent, by referring to said preferential destination information; and  
sending said message to more than one of said plurality of agents determined as destinations for responding to said retrieval request.

10. A computer comprising:  
an execution environment for a plurality of agents; and  
a message monitor for receiving a packet, comprising a retrieval request message and preferential destination information designated by a user, from an agent being active in the execution environment for said agents, and for determining to which of said plurality of agents said message is to be sent by referring to said preferential destination information, and for multicasting said messages to more than one of said plurality of

*D1*  
*et*  
*B2*  
*end*

agents determined as destination agents for responding to said retrieval request.

---

*D1*  
*et*  
*B3*

15. A storage medium for storing a program executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform method steps for multicasting a retrieval request message to more than one of a plurality of agents, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a packet comprising a retrieval request message and preferential destination information designated by a user;

determining to which of said plurality of agents said message is to be sent, by referring to said preferential destination information; and

sending said message to more than one of said plurality of agents determined as destinations for responding to said retrieval request.

---

*D1*  
*et*  
*B4*

19. A method for multicasting a retrieval request message to more than one of a plurality of agents, comprising the steps of:

receiving a retrieval request message;

determining to which of said plurality of agents said message is to be sent, by referring to a messaging policy data defining priorities of agents to which said message can be sent; and

sending said message to more than one of said plurality of agents determined as destinations for responding to said retrieval request.

20. A storage medium for storing a program for causing a machine to execute the steps of a method for multicasting a retrieval request message to more than one of a plurality of agents, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a retrieval request message;

determining to which of said plurality of agents said message is to be sent, by referring to a messaging policy data defining priorities of agents to which said message can be sent; and

sending said retrieval request message to more than one of said plurality of agents determined as destinations for responding to said retrieval request.